United Nations A/C.3/56/SR.8

General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
19 November 2001

Original: English

Third Committee

Summary record of the 8th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 12 October 2001, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Al-Hinai ..... (Oman)

Contents

Nobel Peace Prize awarded to United Nations and its Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan

Agenda item 110: Crime prevention and criminal justice

Agenda item 111: International drug control

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

01-57744 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the United Nations and its Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan

1. **The Chairman** welcomed the fact that the United Nations and Secretary-General Kofi Annan had received the Nobel Peace Prize. It was not the first time that the Organization had been accorded such a distinction, the prize having previously been awarded posthumously in 1961 to the former Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld and, in 1988, to the peacekeeping forces of the United Nations.

Agenda item 110: Crime prevention and criminal justice (A/56/3, 83, 151, 155, 222, 380, A/56/402-E/2001/105, A/56/403)

Agenda item 111: International drug control (A/56/3, 83, 157, 222)

2. **Mr. Maertens** (Deputy Director of the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention) said that Afghanistan was a particular focus of his Office's efforts, not only with regard to international drug control, but also — at least indirectly — in the field of crime prevention. Telling results had been obtained following the ban imposed by the Taliban in July 2000 on opium poppy cultivation in areas under their control. Approximately 185 tons of opium poppies had been produced that year, representing a 94 per cent decrease compared to the 2000 harvest (3,300 tons) and a 97 per cent decrease compared to the record harvest of 1999 (4,700 tons). Those results were all the more heartening given that no cultivation displacement had occurred either within the country or abroad. However, the decrease in production had not as yet impacted on the heroin supply in the region or in Europe, owing to the size of accumulated stocks. Afghan farmers, suddenly deprived of their income from opium poppy cultivation, were in an emergency situation that had been exacerbated by severe drought. In close consultation with Member States — including Afghanistan's neighbours — a three-pronged strategy had been pursued: to ensure that the Taliban maintained their ban; to achieve the destruction of heroin stocks and clandestine laboratories; and to realize an emergency humanitarian aid programme for the farmers that had been most seriously affected. However, the suspension of the programme in the wake of the tragic events of 11 September could lead the farmers to contravene that ban. Drug-trafficking posed a genuine threat to Afghanistan's neighbours such as the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and Central Asian countries that were experiencing increasingly worrying levels of drug addiction; emergency assistance should thus be provided to States finding themselves in the first line of defence against drug-trafficking from Afghanistan owing to their geographical location. Measures had already been implemented at the national level to stem the flow of drugs from Afghanistan, such as in Tajikistan, where a national drug control agency had been set up with assistance from the Office, permitting the seizure of three tons of heroin in 2001. At the regional level, the "Six plus Two" Group had adopted a Regional Action Plan against drugs in September 2000; an International Conference on Enhancing Security and Stability in Central Asia had been held in Tashkent in October 2000, jointly by the Office and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), with a view to strengthening regional cooperation in the area of drug-trafficking control and drug addiction; Central Asian countries had signed a memorandum of understanding in 1996 on cooperation in the field of drug control, to which the Office was a signatory along with the Russian Federation, Azerbaijan and the Aga Khan Development Network; that group had also endorsed a Strategic Framework for Central Asia which had been elaborated in line with recommendations of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

3. Significant results had also been achieved in South-East Asia, where subregional cooperation initiatives abounded, such as the memorandum of understanding that had been in existence among the six Mekong countries for over 10 years, and the action plan adopted by the ASEAN countries and China. The Lao Government had decided to eradicate illicit poppy crops by 2005, two years before the original deadline set at the special session, and the cultivated area had already been reduced by 36 per cent since 1998, mostly in the areas benefiting from alternative development projects. Myanmar was currently the largest single source of opium poppy, although the Government had been able to reduce production by 38 per cent over the past five years, even with very limited international assistance. Progress continued in Latin America, including Peru, Colombia, where UNDCP endeavoured to support the Government's anti-drug policy through alternative development projects, and Bolivia, where

the area used for illicit coca cultivation had dropped from 33,800 hectares in 1997 to only 3,100 in 2001. The international community's assistance was, however, crucial for the implementation of alternative development activities. Lastly, the formulation of a comprehensive strategy for Africa was under way and the proposed budget of UNDCP for the biennium 2002-2003, which should place greater emphasis on demand reduction, provided for an increase in the funding available for Africa.

4. Following the regular triennial review and the review of management and administrative practices conducted by the Office for Internal Oversight Services, and the inspection by the Board of Auditors, the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (UNDCP) had embarked on a set of reforms aimed at greater delegation of authority not only in programme matters but also in financial and budgetary matters. To that end, a results-based approach would be adopted for the next biennium 2002-2003, and a planning and evaluation unit would be set up within UNDCP, which was reinforcing its synergy with the Centre for International Crime Prevention.

5. **Mr. Vetere** (Director of the Centre for International Crime Prevention) said that the adoption by the General Assembly in November 2000 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the three protocols thereto was highly significant. The Centre was actively endeavouring to promote its entry into force, inter alia, by organizing regional and subregional seminars and advising States on request. The Convention had been signed by high-ranking political figures from 123 States and the European Community at the Signing Conference; that was the largest number of opening signatures for a Convention in United Nations history. The current status was 132 signatories to, and 5 ratifications of, the Convention, 91 signatories to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, 87 to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, and 5 to the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition. He urged Member States which had not yet done so to sign and ratify the Convention as soon as possible and hoped that the draft resolution on strengthening capacity-building and technical cooperation activities for the implementation of the Convention and the protocols thereto would be adopted.

6. Moreover, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 55/59 and 55/60, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice had, through the Economic and Social Council, recommended to the General Assembly plans of action for the implementation of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century, which provided valuable guidance to the Secretariat and to Member States. Following the tragic events of 11 September 2001, the international community was called upon to be more resolute than ever in its fight against terrorism. The Terrorism Prevention Branch was responsible for the international dimension of that fight, within the framework of the Vienna Declaration, but it was short of resources and staff, the latter consisting of only two Professional staff members. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice had adopted a draft resolution entitled, "Role, function, periodicity and duration of the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders" (A/C.3/56/L.4) which should facilitate its task and which it recommended for adoption by the General Assembly. It was also striving to combat corruption on the ground and was actively participating in the negotiations on a new United Nations convention against corruption, particularly in defining its field of application, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 55/61 and 55/188.

7. Increased representation of the Centre for International Crime Prevention at the regional and national levels had been achieved through the conversion of eight UNDCP offices into units of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention. It was conducting some 30 technical assistance projects in close cooperation with UNDCP and had launched an anti-corruption programme with the participation of Benin, Colombia, Hungary, Lebanon, Nigeria, Romania and South Africa, while discussions were also under way with other countries, including Indonesia and Iran. As to trafficking in human beings, as part of its programme, the Centre was implementing four technical cooperation programmes: in the Philippines, in the Czech Republic and Poland, in Brazil and in West Africa. The discrepancy between the Centre's resources and the mandate entrusted to it had increased. He thanked those Member States which had made provision for a modest increase in the Centre's

regular budget in the next programme budget and asked to make further efforts and increase their voluntary contributions to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, which had received only $3 million a year over the past three years.

8. **Mr. Andrabi** (Pakistan) said that the very marked reduction in poppy cultivation as a result, inter alia, of the ban imposed by the Taliban in Afghanistan, was leading to a supply crisis on the international drug markets as well as a steep increase in prices, which might constitute a particularly strong incentive for poppy growers. He would like to know how the international community was preparing to cope with that situation and what measures were being taken to reduce the demand for narcotic drugs. With regard to the countries in the first line of defence against the shipment of drugs from Afghanistan, in particular the Islamic Republic of Iran and his own country, where destitution and poverty aggravated the phenomenon of drug addiction, he wished to know whether specific proposals were being considered in order to continue to help those countries not only to control the shipment of drugs to other countries in the world, but also to protect themselves domestically.

9. **Ms. Stevens** (Belgium) speaking on behalf of the European Union, the associated central and eastern European countries and Norway, said that the European Union favoured better integration of the work by UNDCP in the programmes of other United Nations bodies and agencies. She wished to know more about the Programme's strategy in that regard and the reinforcing of the synergy between it and the Centre for International Crime Prevention (CICP). The European Union would also like to have more precise information on the Centre's priorities and how it envisaged its work with regard to criminal justice and crime prevention.

10. **Mr. Vetere** (Director, Centre for International Crime Prevention), referring to the synergy between UNDCP and the Centre, said that some field offices, the number of which had been increased to eight, were capable of dealing both with drug control and crime prevention and were situated principally in the regions where the Programme and the Centre were both carrying out programmes or activities, such as in southern Africa, central Africa and other regions. Other activities were carried out jointly, inter alia, within the framework of the implementation of the Global Programme against Money Laundering, for questions concerning flows of illegal funds and capital, which were not only the result of drug-related crime, but also organized transnational crime. UNDCP and the Centre also worked more closely with regard to recovering illegal financial assets, within the framework of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 55/188 and the relevant provisions of the new United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. In addition, the Programme and the Centre jointly organized training seminars, meetings and activities on questions related to mutual assistance, extradition and legal assistance in general.

11. The Centre's priorities were based on the medium-term plan and the programme budget. For example, under the next programme budget, the Centre would take account of the recommendations made by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its last session as well as the recommendation by the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) advocating a more balanced approach to the problem of crime in order to take account of such aspects as computer-related crime or the prevention of terrorism. In that regard, the Centre was considering co-sponsoring, together with OECD, a conference to be held in December 2001 in Kyrgyzstan on measures to combat terrorism.

12. Lastly, the Centre's main priorities were generally those indicated by Member States through intergovernmental bodies.

13. **Ms. Vadjati** (Islamic Republic of Iran) thanked the Deputy Director of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention for drawing the Committee's attention to the difficult situation affecting the neighbouring countries of Afghanistan, a responsibility that her Government had assumed for many years. Combating the shipment of drugs through her country to Europe could not be effectively continued without the support and renewed cooperation of the international community.

14. **Mr. Maertens** (Deputy Director, United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention), responding to questions raised by the representative of Pakistan, said that the Office's strategy for Afghanistan up to the end of 2000 and the beginning of 2001, shortly after the Taliban had prohibited opium poppy cultivation, had focused on three areas: continuing to monitor the situation through an annual study on opium poppy production; conducting pilot programmes in four

districts of Afghanistan, resulting in the disappearance of 50 per cent of the opium poppy crop in those districts; and setting up a "cordon sanitaire" around Afghanistan in cooperation with neighbouring countries in order to halt the shipment of illegal drugs from Afghanistan. Once it had been confirmed in May 2001 that the ban imposed by the Taliban in July 2000 was being applied in all the regions under their control, the Office had conducted negotiations and consultations with its partners in order to re-evaluate its strategy. Following those consultations, a decision had been taken to maintain the Office's presence in the country, continue monitoring the situation with regard to opium poppies, and provide emergency assistance to farmers who had no other cash crops because of the drought or the ban. The Office had also been requested to ensure that the Taliban would keep their commitment with regard to the complete ban on opium poppy cultivation and take measures to destroy existing stocks.

15. The amount of opium on the global market had been reduced by about 3,000 tons, or 300 tons of heroin. The price of poppies had risen from about $30 to about $700 per kilogram, and then had fallen to about $80 per kilogram after the attacks of 11 September. The attacks had forced the Office to freeze all its projects and evacuate its staff, but the Office had continued its monitoring activities. It had begun to receive reports that the Taliban had once again authorized farmers to produce opium. In recent weeks, the Office had held in-depth consultations with its member States, which had agreed that, apart from the continuation of monitoring and information-gathering activities, the Office should focus as much as possible on the programmes being carried out in countries bordering Afghanistan.

16. The Office had developed a strategic programme framework for Central Asia. It had supported the establishment of a national drug control agency in Tajikistan, and the Government of Kyrgyzstan had asked it to provide support for a similar initiative in that country. Entities and cooperation of that type had proved their usefulness: in 2001, three tons of heroin had been seized in Tajikistan, whereas virtually none had been seized two years earlier.

17. Programmes to prevent and treat drug addiction had been launched in Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran. A balanced approach was essential in those countries and in other Central Asian countries through which drugs from Afghanistan were transported to the Russian Federation and then to Western Europe. All those movements were examined on a daily basis. In Europe, the impact of the 3,000-ton reduction in the amount of opium on the market would not be felt until 2002.

18. Accordingly, the countries surrounding Afghanistan had been encouraged to cooperate closely with the Office. Various types of assistance were available from the Office, which stayed in constant contact with donors to mobilize more resources. With the Office's help, the "Six plus Two" group had adopted a regional plan of action on judicial cooperation, law enforcement, demand reduction and the control of precursors.

19. With respect to the integration of the issue of drug control into other programmes, which had been mentioned by the representative of Belgium, he said that the Administrative Committee on Coordination had adopted guidelines recommending the integration of a drug control component into other priority programmes. Accordingly, in the Office's budget proposals for the coming biennium, all drug programmes had been expressly linked to other issues such as poverty eradication, crime prevention and HIV/AIDS.

20. The Office was involved in both policy integration, through the implementation of the relevant guidelines, and operational integration, through its field offices. Moreover, through its cooperation with the activities of resident coordinators and with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, it had succeeded in ensuring that other entities such as the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and financial institutions such as the Asian Development Bank integrated the drug control component into the programmes they sponsored, such as the alternative development programmes being carried out in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Currently, more than half of the Office's programmes were executed by or in cooperation with other entities. For example, in the area of demand reduction, there was a very good synergy with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), of which the Office was one of the sponsoring organizations.

21. **Mr. Mei** Yuncai (China) asked for details on the accomplishments and future projects of UNDCP in the

area of crop substitution, particularly in South-East Asia and India.

22. **Mr. Bhattacharjee** (India) said that he would like to know the exact amount of the large stocks of poppies and opium that still existed despite the ban imposed by the Taliban in 2000, which meant that the drop in production had had no impact on the supply of heroin in Central Asia and Europe. He asked whether those who held the stocks had been identified.

23. He also asked how he could obtain the plans of action drawn up in Vienna, which had been mentioned by a previous speaker. With respect to the use of drug money to finance criminal activities such as arms trafficking and terrorism, he asked whether the plan of action on terrorism to be adopted by consensus took into account the issue of assets derived from drug trafficking.

24. **Mr. Maertens** (Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention) reminded the representative of China that, in 2001, Myanmar, a South-East Asian country, had become the world's largest producer of opium poppies (1,000 tons). However, the problem of illicit cultivation could not be solved without regional cooperation. The memorandum of understanding concluded in 1996 among all the countries of the region and UNDCP had enabled a number of countries to achieve significant results. The Lao People's Democratic Republic had pledged to achieve the goals set at the special session of the General Assembly three years earlier than the established time frame; in other words, by 2005 instead of 2008. Other countries such as Viet Nam had also made great strides. In Myanmar, the 30-per-cent decline in opium poppy production had taken place primarily in the northern part of the Shan region, where poppy cultivation predominated. A programme of alternative development activities was currently being tested in one sector and was in its second phase. However, the Office's activities in Myanmar remained modest owing to a shortage of resources, a large share of which were provided by just two donor countries.

25. In reply to the representative of India, he said that the Office had issued a report analysing the effects of the ban on the cultivation of opium poppies imposed by the Taliban in July 2000. In view of the seriousness of the issue of stocks of poppies, three assessment missions had been sent to Afghanistan in February 2001 and specialists from several countries had visited Afghanistan in May. While they could not determine the exact location of the stocks, they could nonetheless affirm that the stocks did exist in the region, if not in Afghanistan itself. An analysis of average opium poppy production in Afghanistan since the early 1990s and a comparison between supply and demand in the main European markets, which had not yet been completed, showed that, for the moment, the stock of poppies was on the order of 2,800 tons.

26. **Mr. Vetere** (Director of the Centre for International Crime Prevention), replying to the representative of India, said that he regretted the delays in providing documents to Member States and agreed that the situation should be improved. At its tenth session, held from 8 to 17 May, and its resumed tenth session, on 6 and 7 September, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice had adopted plans of action relating to the implementation of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice, annexed to General Assembly resolution 55/59. Those plans, which appeared in the Commission's report (E/2001/30/Rev.1), set out measures to be taken at the national and international level with regard to transnational organized crime, trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, illicit manufacturing of firearms, corruption, money-laundering, terrorism, crime prevention and the protection of witnesses and victims of crime, prison overcrowding and alternates to incarceration, computer-related crime, juvenile justice, women's needs in the criminal-justice system, United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, and restorative justice. The report on the resumed tenth session also contained the text of two draft resolutions to be submitted for adoption by the General Assembly, concerning a new convention against corruption and the plans of action for the implementation of the Vienna Declaration; they had not been communicated to the Member States, because they had not yet been adopted by the Economic and Social Council. Furthermore, the plan of action on terrorism established links between transnational organized crime, drug-trafficking, money transfers and terrorism, which should progressively allow more effective measures to be taken against that scourge.

27. **Ms. Stevens** (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, and Cyprus, Iceland, Malta, Norway and Turkey, said that the European Union wished to express its concern

about the growth of drug production, trafficking and consumption. Drug use was a global phenomenon and certain States, particularly in Africa, were extremely vulnerable. That was why, when drawing up its 2000-2004 Action Plan to Combat Drugs, the European Union had set geographical priorities. It called on the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) to provide optimum support for efforts by the African countries to launch anti-drug programmes at the national and regional levels.

28. Drug consumption frequently went hand in hand with the spread of HIV/AIDS, and the European Union fully supported the increasing attention paid by UNDCP to that link. Moreover, the European Union was greatly concerned by the threat posed by synthetic drugs, particularly amphetamine-type stimulants; it denounced the sale of such substances on the Internet and called for cooperation between States importing and exporting precursors.

29. The European Union urged Member States to adopt appropriate legislation and to establish financial-investigation units to counter money-laundering linked to drug-trafficking in order to achieve by 2003 the objectives established at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, in 1998.

30. At that session, Member States had recognized that demand reduction was essential; consequently, the European Union welcomed the significant increase in UNDCP activities in the areas of prevention, assistance to wean drug addicts off drugs, and access to treatment through rehabilitation. On the question of prevention, the European Union supported the spread of best on-the-ground practices and considered that street children, young people in vulnerable situations, or victims of sexual abuse, for example, required specific strategies. Regarding access to treatment and rehabilitation, women, particularly, those who were pregnant, young people, refugees and minorities needed easier access to social assistance and social services; the special needs of children of drug addicts also needed to be addressed. Importance should be given to vocational training, help in finding accommodation, social reintegration, and alternatives to imprisonment for drug addicts who had committed criminal acts.

31. Like demand reduction, supply reduction was a key element of efforts to combat drug abuse, and the European Union supported measures designed to prevent, limit and eliminate the cultivation, production and distribution of and trafficking in drugs, improved regional cooperation to combat cross-border trafficking, reinforcement of border controls with modern tools and training in better practice in the area of law-enforcement procedures. The collection of reliable, objective data and the evaluation of anti-drug activities were also important tools, because both Governments and UNDCP required updated statistics on the profile and motivations of drug users.

32. The UNDCP should continue to play its role of catalyst of regional cooperation between drug-affected countries and should help countries elaborate national supply- and demand-reduction plans. The European Union considered that UNDCP action should be better integrated into the programmes of other United Nations agencies. The European Union had taken note of the measures recently adopted by the Executive Director of UNDCP with a view to improving the functioning and management of the Programme, and also the inspection report from the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

33. Turning to agenda item 110, she welcomed the opening for signature, in December 2000, of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Additional Protocols, which would make it possible to strengthen judicial cooperation and emphasize the protection of victims and prevention. The European Union appealed to all States to ratify those instruments as soon as possible.

34. The States members of the European Union intended to sign the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition at the current session of the General Assembly and urged all Member States to follow suit. Two other protocols to the Convention, against trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, respectively, marked a turning point in the fight against trafficking in human beings. In order to combat that phenomenon, which was exacerbated by globalization, countries of origin, transit and destination should develop effective joint strategies and penal measures.

35. The European Union, which attached great importance to the drafting of an international convention against corruption, welcomed the outcome of the summer meeting of the Intergovernmental Open-Ended Expert Group to Prepare Draft Terms of Reference for the Negotiation of an International Legal

Instrument against Corruption. It called on Member States to adopt, at the current session, the resolution approving those terms of reference and encouraged them to participate in the work of the ad hoc committee responsible for drafting the convention.

36. The European Union noted with interest the efforts of the United Nations to combat modern forms of crime; it was particularly concerned about the exploitation of information technology for criminal purposes.

37. The plans of action adopted at the tenth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice constituted an important tool for implementing concrete measures to combat international crime. The Union called on Member States to provide the United Nations specialized bodies and agencies, which played a central role in the fight against drugs and crime, with the resources that they needed to carry out their mandates.

38. **Mr. Musambachime** (Zambia), speaking on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), expressed warm congratulations to the Secretary-General and the United Nations in connection with the recent awarding to them of the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize, which had been richly deserved. In the light of the recent terrorist attacks against the United States of America, SADC wished to join with those who had called for the adoption and implementation of international conventions against crime, including terrorism.

39. The Community took note of the measures and strategies outlined in Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), which demonstrated that the international community was determined to eliminate the scourge of terrorism. It pointed out that terrorism and organized crime were interlinked; and welcomed, in that connection, the adoption in 2000 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which opened new perspectives for assisting Member States in combating organized crime, especially through the provision of technical assistance. SADC was confident that the Convention, which was the first legally binding instrument in that area, would make it possible to strengthen the capacity of the countries of the region to combat crime and eliminate the inconsistencies among States that had been exploited by criminal networks.

40. Globalization and the free movement of persons, goods and services that it had brought about had helped organized crime to become more sophisticated. Innovative approaches were required to combat it. He noted, in that connection that the Convention would enable the countries of the Community to strengthen their capacity to combat money-laundering, corruption, drug abuse and drug trafficking, the illegal mining of diamonds and other precious minerals, the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and the more recent phenomenon of computer-related crime.

41. Criminal organizations had no regard for borders and collaborated among themselves; in order to thwart them, police forces from different countries must therefore work closely together and exchange information. For that reason, the SADC countries coordinated on all matters of public security through the Southern African Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (SARPCO), an Interpol institution established in 1997. SARPCO conducted joint operations targeting motor vehicle theft and trafficking in drugs, firearms and precious stones and had succeeded in significantly reducing trafficking in stolen motor vehicles, which was extremely prevalent in the region.

42. With regard to drugs, he considered that the Political Declaration adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to countering the world drug problem together, marked a commitment, to which the Community subscribed, to address all aspects of the drug problem at both the national and international levels with a view to curbing drug abuse and drug trafficking. The Community was conducting a number of joint activities with the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODDCP), notably with respect to legal matters and supply reduction and was also collaborating with other partners. It wished to point out, in that connection, that poverty and underdevelopment were the main causes of drug trafficking, corruption and money-laundering, a fact that was taken into account in its programmes.

43. On the question of illicit trade in small arms, the Programme of Action adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects had marked a significant step towards preventing, combating and eradicating the trade. In August 2001, the heads of State and Government of SADC had signed a protocol

which constituted a far-reaching legal instrument for controlling both illicit and legally-held small arms.

44. Measures against crime would not achieve the desired results without effective systems of law enforcement and criminal justice. In that regard, SADC would appreciate cooperation in capacity-building, including training, technical assistance and development of expertise, as stipulated in the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice. SADC reiterated the important role which could be played in African countries by the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI). SADC hoped that other donors and partners would assist in its efforts.

45. **Ms. Leyton** (Chile), speaking on agenda item 111 on behalf of the Rio Group, said that the Group welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly (A/56/157), in which he emphasized that, in adopting the Political Declaration (resolution S-20/2, annex), Member States had expressed a high-level commitment to address all elements of the drug problem at both the national and international levels. However, in spite of the considerable progress made since the special session, there was still much to be done to achieve the goals and targets set in the Political Declaration for 2003 and 2008. The biennial reports of the Executive Director of UNDCP, the first of which had already been issued in accordance with Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 44/2, were important tools for that purpose.

46. At their Fifteenth Presidential Summit, held in Santiago in August 2001, the heads of State and Government of the Rio Group had reiterated the need to continue promoting bilateral and multilateral cooperation, based on the principle of shared responsibility, and also to develop a coordinated regional strategy to give impetus to international efforts to control, inter alia, the chemical inputs used to manufacture drugs, including precursors, and to monitor trafficking in drugs, including synthetic drugs, money-laundering related to drug trafficking, and similar crimes. The development and implementation of effective strategies to combat and punish such crimes, as well as the illicit trade in small arms, contributed to the fight against terrorism and its sources of funding, which had become a priority for the international community.

47. To ensure that regional initiatives resulted in effective and permanent instruments for international cooperation, the principles of international law must be applied in all circumstances. In that light, the fight against illicit drug trafficking at sea should be based on article 17 of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, international law and the sovereignty of the State in whose territory the operation was being carried out. The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism established by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission had already completed its first round of evaluations of the progress achieved, individually or collectively, by the countries of the region in fighting the drug problem.

48. Several positive steps had been taken at the international level. It was clear that preferential access to international markets for products from the developing countries engaged in the fight against drugs contributed markedly to the security and the economic and social development of those countries. But although the results so far achieved in reducing supply had exceeded all expectations, the same could not be said of demand, and that was all the more disturbing because children and young people were increasingly playing a part in producing and selling drugs, as well as in consuming them. For all those reasons, the Rio Group reiterated the need to follow scrupulously the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction.

49. **Mr. Mack** (United States of America) said his country appreciated the support and solidarity it had received from the international community since 11 September. Its attachment to its core tenets had been strengthened as a result, but as the Secretary-General had stated, the attacks were a blow against everything the United Nations stood for. He therefore hoped that the expressions of support from all the States which opposed terrorism would soon be matched by effective operational steps. In the immediate future, it was important to implement all the provisions of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). As the rule of law itself had come under attack on 11 September, the emphasis must be placed on compliance with international law and judicial cooperation. There must be no compromise with criminal organizations, which lacked respect for democracy and the dignity of human life. President Bush's Administration had adopted as its overriding objective to thwart such organizations, and

primarily those engaged in terrorism and drug trafficking. That was why it had recently frozen the financial assets of a number of terrorist organizations and front groups, a measure which as many countries as possible should employ. Congress and the Department of Justice had undertaken to re-examine the legislation in force with a view to determining what changes could be made to enable law-enforcement officers to investigate more effectively. For its part, the Treasury Department was endeavouring to track the money which enabled transnational criminal organizations to operate, while in Congress, Republicans and Democrats were working together to combat money-laundering. The United States had also set up procedures to ensure more effective tracking of persons entering the country illegally and to tighten up security at airports and flying schools, and the procedure for issuing licences to transport hazardous materials would be made stricter.

50. International cooperation leading to the identification and dismantling of criminal syndicates and permitting the imprisonment of ringleaders was vital because terrorist organizations were undeterred by political borders. Since 11 September, regional and multilateral institutions such as the Organization of American States, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the North Atlantic Council, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Association of South-East Asian Nations, the Organization of African Unity, the East African Community and the Southern African Development Community had pledged their renewed efforts to combat terrorist activity. The international community's greatest asset was naturally still the United Nations, because it alone had the unifying force to win over all nations, as was evidenced by the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council the day after the terrorist attacks against the United States. Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) stipulated, inter alia, that all States must prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts, deny safe haven to terrorists, refrain from providing any form of support, active or passive, to terrorist organizations and provide law-enforcement and judicial cooperation to ward off acts of terrorism. The battle against terrorism was being waged on many different fronts in the United Nations. In addition to the 12 pending conventions or protocols, which were in the process of being ratified and which specifically targeted terrorism, there was also the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which had already been signed by 126 Member States. The United States urged all Member States to ratify all the conventions and their additional protocols as soon as possible. Those texts would enable many States to obtain valuable technical assistance, to review their respective codes of criminal procedure and to improve cooperation with each other. As Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) so rightly noted, the close connection between international terrorism and transnational organized crime seriously jeopardized international security.

51. It was vital to prevent transnational crime rings from reaping any profits from their activities. The first step towards the achievement of that goal had been the adoption of several United Nations drug conventions and the signing of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which contained provisions on money-laundering. A further basis for action was the Global Programme against Money Laundering, which deserved the financial support of the developed countries. It was also possible to rely on the backing of the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering, various similar regional organizations and the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units.

52. Experience showed that the corruption of officialdom facilitated the growth of transnational crime and threatened the stability of elected Governments, especially in countries in transition. The United States was therefore glad that the General Assembly was overseeing the drafting of a new convention against corruption. The lofty goals set in 1998 at the General Assembly's special session devoted to the world drug problem had resulted in significant progress in the fight against drug trafficking. Furthermore, the commitments set out in the three United Nations drug conventions had given rise to five action plans and a declaration on drug-demand reduction. In order to rise to all those challenges, Member States should engage in practical cooperation to secure the enforcement of existing laws. They should also tighten domestic legislation if it was lax and support the reform of mechanisms for international cooperation which had proved inadequate or ineffective, so that the global community could act in unison. But, of course, it was most important to maintain firm collective political will. Whatever the

short-term costs of decisive action, they paled in comparison to the long-term costs of disinterest.

53. **Ms. Yanagawa** (Japan) said that efforts to control transnational organized crime and drug-trafficking had become all the more imperative, since those sources were used to finance terrorism, a genuine threat to the life and dignity of the human person.

54. Japan supported the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the three related Protocols, and had not only participated actively in their elaboration, but had also thus helped developing countries to take part. In view of the urgency of ensuring the rapid implementation of those instruments, her Government had also contributed to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund and supported the activities of the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC). Convinced that international and regional cooperation only facilitated efforts to control organized crime, Japan had assumed the full administration of the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI) and had hosted the Asia-Pacific Law Enforcement Conference against Transnational Organized Crime. The Government also intended to participate in work to commence in January 2002 on the elaboration of an international instrument against corruption, and welcomed the finalization by the Council of Europe of the Draft Convention on Cyber crime, in which it had itself participated.

55. Japan cooperated fully with other States, UNDCP and other international organizations in implementing the global strategy in the area of international drug control. The Government had launched a five-year strategy which aimed to: prevent drug abuse among young people, ensure strict law enforcement in the realm of drug-trafficking and abuse, impose border controls, and facilitate the rehabilitation of ex-drug users. Convinced that prevention was more effective and cost-efficient in reducing drug demand than rehabilitation, Japan made efforts to ensure that its young people in primary and secondary schools were provided with objective information on the drug problem and on preventive measures. The Government also gave bilateral assistance to many countries in the region to support their anti-drug efforts and would also support international efforts to that end.

56. **Mr. Sánchez Nuñez** (Cuba) said that the scourge of drugs and drug-related crime continued to expand owing to heavy demand exacerbated by globalization. In order to deal with that serious and complex challenge, genuine international cooperation to address all aspects of the problem was indispensable. Such cooperation was doomed to failure, however, if international law and, therefore, the very principles on which international cooperation was founded were not respected. Such cooperation could be based only on the sharing of responsibilities, taking account of all stages of the process, from production to distribution, and equality of all stakeholders. It was also crucial that developed countries should better assist developing countries in acquiring the appropriate means to combat drug-trafficking. Cuba reaffirmed its condemnation of unilateral action on the part of certain States. In particular, it was unacceptable that the country that was the largest consumer of drugs in the world should claim the role of international arbiter in seeking to impose the so-called drug certification process, which only served to complicate anti-drug cooperation and undermine the elementary rules for coexistence among States.

57. His delegation supported the efforts of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP); its assistance to Cuba had enabled the country to strengthen its human capacities in the anti-drug field and to enhance its technical capacities to some degree. He also supported the work of the International Narcotics Control Board, which was the only world authority competent to assess the efforts of States in an impartial and objective manner and to promote effective international cooperation.

58. Although Cuban society was virtually free from drug-related problems, Cuba was situated near one of the largest centres of drug consumption in the world and had thus long been seeking to prevent its territory from being used as a transit zone for the flow of drugs towards the United States market. Since 1970, the Cuban authorities had arrested more than 700 foreign drug traffickers and confiscated approximately 100 aircraft and boats, including 80 registered in the United States. More than 31 tons of narcotics had been seized over the past seven years, and, if it had not been for the efforts of the authorities, more than a billion individual doses of cocaine would have been consumed over the past five years in the United States and other countries. Those efforts had all been undertaken despite their huge economic burden and an insufficiency of material

resources, and in the absence of steady cooperation with the authorities of the main country concerned. Several recent occurrences — such as the seizure in 1999 in Cuban territorial waters of two cargoes each of four tons of cocaine — testified to the Government's unwavering will to engage in all possible types of cooperation in that field with every country without exception. It should be stressed that Cuba had signed bilateral cooperation agreements with 30 countries in the field of combating drug trafficking. Moreover, Cuba would be hosting the Regional Conference on Caribbean Drug Enforcement and Control on 9 and 10 November 2001, at which concrete strategies on preventing illicit drug use, controlling drug-trafficking, and money-laundering in the region would be debated.

59. Lastly, Cuba reiterated the offer of cooperation that it had extended to the United States Government in July 1999. It requested nothing in return — not even the lifting of the economic and financial embargo — in order to reach an agreement on drug-trafficking control, an area in which the United States of America had a far greater stake than Cuba. Even without such an agreement, Cuba was intent on combating drug-trafficking, not only to protect Cuban society from its detrimental effects but also because it considered it a moral responsibility towards peoples affected by the scourge, and an international duty.

60. **Mr. Wenaweser** (Liechtenstein), speaking on agenda item 110, said that the fight against international organized crime had become an increasingly important issue and that there was a correlation between terrorism and other forms of international organized crime, particularly in the areas of communication and money transfers. The expertise of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the Office of the Centre for International Crime Prevention could be of major assistance in the implementation of the provisions of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). His delegation therefore welcomed the fact that the Counter-Terrorism Committee established pursuant to the resolution was examining ways to use that expertise.

61. Liechtenstein had long been committed to the fight against international organized crime. The Head of the Government had signed the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in Palermo, in 2000, and Liechtenstein had signed the additional protocols, in March 2001. As an economic centre with high-quality financial services, Liechtenstein had reinforced its fight against money-laundering by implementing institutional changes in order to meet the highest international standards in that regard. Aware that organized crime knew no boundaries, it was collaborating closely with the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development in order to reshape its legislation and enforcement mechanisms. International cooperation should be based on transparency, fairness and mutual understanding. Attempts to pursue unrelated goals or combat other types of criminal activity under the pretence of fighting money-laundering could only hinder international cooperation. Such cooperation was particularly necessary in the light of the events of 11 September. Liechtenstein would pay special attention to those aspects of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) related to the financing of terrorist acts. It had already expressed its determination in that respect by signing the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and it was fully equipped and resolved to contribute to the implementation of all the provisions of resolution 1373. Lastly, it welcomed the dialogue initiated by the Bureau of the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

62. **Ms. Khalil** (Egypt) said that, in his report in document A/565/157, the Secretary-General had described the progress that had been made in the fight against the world drug problem, particularly with regard to supply reduction. The implementation of the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development had already resulted in the destruction of significant areas of such crops. Despite international efforts, however, the drug problem remained an obstacle to development; extensive global action was therefore needed. The eradication of the sources of production was insufficient, in itself, to resolve the problem, which knew no boundaries. Unemployment, poverty and violence were its underlying causes and it had negative effects at the economic, social, legal, health, psychological and moral levels.

63. Her delegation therefore called for increased cooperation between the international community, civil society, competent non-governmental organizations and the specialized agencies, and also for local initiatives, as well as an increase in the support and resources contributed to developing countries exposed to the drug problem. Moreover, Egypt invited the United Nations

Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention and also the programmes established by UNICEF and other organizations to work together in order to devise innovative solutions, particularly with regard to the rehabilitation of drug addicts, the social reintegration of young children, consciousness-raising, education and prevention. It was also important to propose alternate sources of income for those who made a living from the illicit production of and trafficking in drugs.

64. Egypt was aware that globalization and the revolution in information and communication technologies, together with the elimination of borders, had negative effects on international crime, which was diversifying and impeding the international community's efforts to promote social development. Egypt had signed the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which testified to the will of the international community to make a concerted response to that scourge.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.